

15 August 1951

Memorandum for the Record

1. Mr. Carlisle Humelsine, Deputy Under Secretary of State for Administration, and Mr. Pforzheimer met with Senators McCarran and Ferguson, the ranking members of the Internal Security Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, to discuss certain aspects of the appearance of John Davies, of the Department of State, before the Subcommittee.

2. Mr. Humelsine pointed out that the Subcommittee, through Senator Smith of North Carolina, had asked Mr. Davies for the authority by which Davies had stated that conversations he had had with representatives of CIA were classified and could not be discussed with the Subcommittee. Mr. Humelsine stated that the subject of the particular conversation was classified Top Secret as it was a highly classified type of operation. I underlined the fact that not only was this particular project so classified, but as both Senators understood, the very fact that the Government engaged in certain types of operations should not be acknowledged or given any discussion.

3. Senator Ferguson's initial position was that he knew in general of these operations, and it was his opinion there was no reason why the Subcommittee could not be informed of its general nature without going into any details.

4. The Senators then inquired as to why Mr. Davies had been in this picture at all, and Mr. Humelsine pointed out that it was the Department's role in 1949 to give guidance to these operations. He stated that General Smith had told him that had he been the Director at the time, he might have approved the project under appropriate safeguards, and in fact [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Mr. Humelsine stated further that the Department had very carefully examined these charges and was quite satisfied that Davies had not intended anything subversive in making his suggestion. He further stated that the charges had been carefully aired in the loyalty hearing on Davies, and that he had been cleared. It was

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State Dept. review completed

OGC Has Reviewed

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pointed out that in the nature of these operations such a proposal would not be amiss, particularly as in this case the use of "cut-outs" had been recommended.

5. The Senators asked how General Smith felt about Davies and this incident, and I told them that General Smith felt quite satisfied as to Davies, had spoken most highly of him in his book, and had expressed his opinion to me of satisfaction as to Davies as a person.

6. It was our impression at the close of the conversation that Senators McCarran and Ferguson will not require Davies to produce the data they have requested and that they probably will not pursue the matter any further.

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Walter L. Pforzheimer  
Legislative Counsel

cc - AD/OPC